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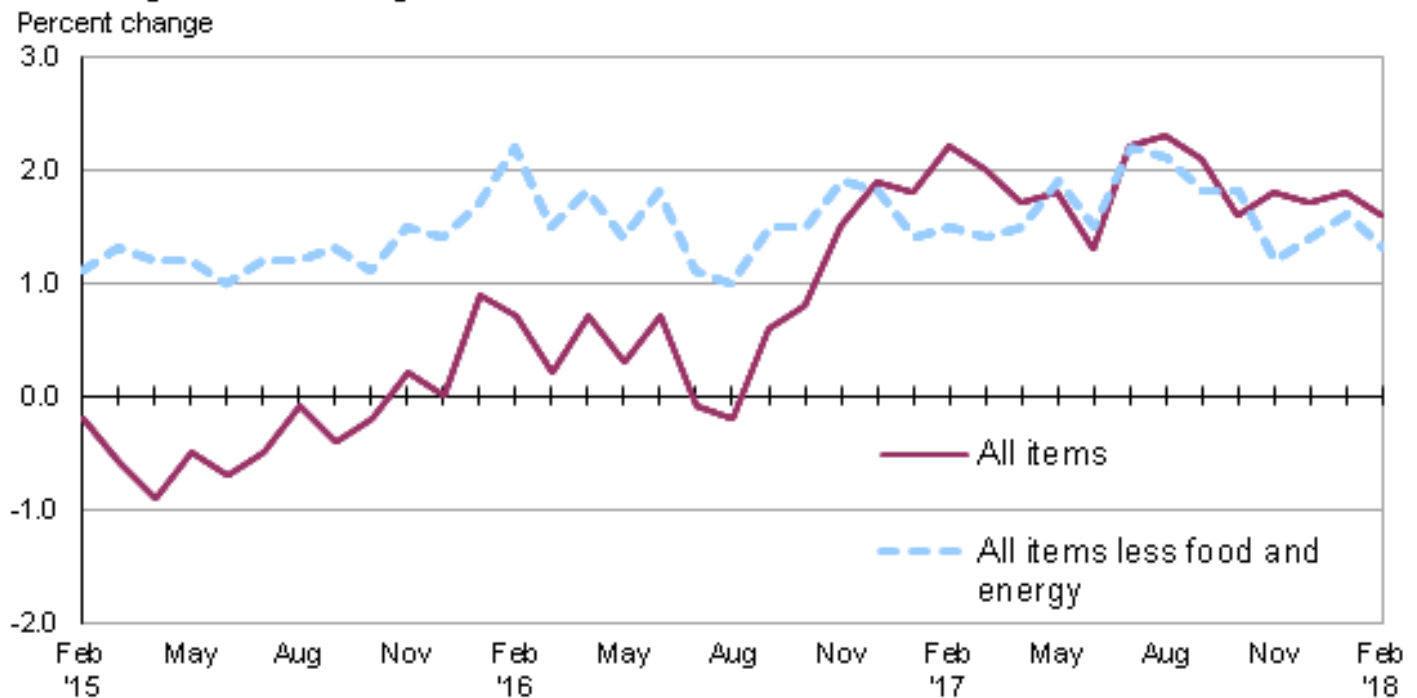
Consumer Price Index, Chicago-Naperville-Elgin — February 2018

Local prices up 1.6 percent over the year

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) in the Chicago-Naperville-Elgin area was unchanged in February, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Assistant Commissioner for Regional Operations Charlene Peiffer noted that in February the energy index fell 1.7 percent, while the food index increased 0.7 percent. The all items less food and energy index edged up 0.1 percent over the month. Among the indexes within the all items less food and energy category, prices were higher for shelter and alcoholic beverages, but lower for apparel, household furnishing and operations, and new and used motor vehicles. (Data in this report are not seasonally adjusted. Accordingly, month-to-month changes may reflect the impact of seasonal influences.)

Over the last 12 months, the Chicago area all items CPI-U increased 1.6 percent. (See [chart 1](#) and [table A](#).) Energy costs rose 5.5 percent over the year, primarily due to an increase in gasoline prices. For the same period, the food index increased 2.0 percent. The all items less food and energy index was 1.3 percent higher over the year. (See [table 1](#).)

Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in CPI-U, Chicago-Naperville-Elgin, IL-IN-WI, February 2015–February 2018



Food

Food prices were 0.7 percent higher in February. The food at home index (groceries) rose 1.1 percent, while the food away from home (restaurant, cafeteria, and vending purchases) index advanced 0.2 percent. Within the food at home group, prices were higher in February for carbonated drinks, other miscellaneous food, and chicken. In contrast, the indexes for spices, seasonings, condiments, and sauces; nonfrozen noncarbonated juices and drinks; and uncooked ground beef were lower.

From February 2017 to February 2018, the food index increased 2.0 percent. Grocery prices rose 1.5 percent, and food away from home prices rose 2.6 percent over the year.

Energy

The energy index decreased 1.7 percent in February. For the same period, the indexes for gasoline and electricity fell 2.8 percent and 0.4 percent, respectively. Additionally, the index for utility (piped) gas service declined 0.3 percent, during the same period.

Over the year, the Chicago area energy index rose 5.5 percent. The gasoline and electricity indexes rose 11.9 percent and 6.4 percent, respectively, from February 2017 to February 2018. In contrast, the index for utility (piped) gas service fell 8.9 percent from February 2017.

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy edged up 0.1 percent in February. Among the index's components, prices were higher for shelter (0.4 percent) and alcoholic beverages (0.8 percent). In contrast, prices were lower for apparel (-2.2 percent), household furnishings and operations (-0.5 percent), and new and used motor vehicles (-0.3 percent).

Over the year, the index for all items less food and energy increased 1.3 percent. Increases in the indexes for shelter (2.8 percent) and recreation (2.6 percent), were major contributing factors.

Table A. Chicago-Naperville-Elgin, IL-IN-WI, CPI-U 1-month and 12-month percent changes, all items index, not seasonally adjusted

Month	2014		2015		2016		2017		2018	
	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month
January.....	0.9	1.2	-0.2	0.4	0.8	0.9	0.7	1.8	0.8	1.8
February.....	0.5	0.7	0.0	-0.2	-0.2	0.7	0.1	2.2	0.0	1.6
March.....	1.1	1.9	0.7	-0.6	0.1	0.2	-0.1	2.0		
April.....	0.5	2.4	0.1	-0.9	0.6	0.7	0.4	1.7		
May.....	-0.1	1.8	0.3	-0.5	0.0	0.3	0.2	1.8		
June.....	0.4	2.0	0.2	-0.7	0.5	0.7	0.0	1.3		
July.....	-0.4	1.9	-0.1	-0.5	-0.8	-0.1	0.0	2.2		
August.....	0.1	1.9	0.4	-0.1	0.2	-0.2	0.3	2.3		
September.....	0.0	2.1	-0.3	-0.4	0.6	0.6	0.4	2.1		
October.....	-0.4	2.0	-0.1	-0.2	0.1	0.8	-0.4	1.6		
November.....	-0.8	1.6	-0.4	0.2	0.2	1.5	0.4	1.8		
December.....	-0.4	1.5	-0.6	0.0	-0.2	1.9	-0.4	1.7		

The March 2018 Consumer Price Index for Chicago is scheduled to be released on Wednesday, April 11, 2018.

Consumer Price Index Geographic Revision for 2018

In January 2018, BLS introduced a new geographic area sample for the Consumer Price Index (CPI). As part of the new sample, the index for this area was renamed. The indexes using the new structure are now published. Additional information on the geographic revision is available at: www.bls.gov/cpi/additional-resources/geographic-revision-2018.htm.

Technical Note

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) is a measure of the average change in prices over time in a fixed market basket of goods and services. The Bureau of Labor Statistics publishes CPIs for two population groups: (1) a CPI for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) which covers approximately 93 percent of the total population and (2) a CPI for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) which covers approximately 29 percent of the total population. The CPI-U includes, in addition to wage earners and clerical workers, groups such as professional, managerial, and technical workers, the self-employed, short-term workers, the unemployed, and retirees and others not in the labor force.

The CPI is based on prices of food, clothing, shelter, and fuels, transportation fares, charges for doctors' and dentists' services, drugs, and the other goods and services that people buy for day-to-day living. Each month, prices are collected in 75 urban areas across the country from about 5,000 housing units and approximately 22,000 retail establishments--department stores, supermarkets, hospitals, filling stations, and other types of stores and service establishments. All taxes directly associated with the purchase and use of items are included in the index.

The index measures price changes from a designated reference date (1982-84) that equals 100.0. An increase of 16.5 percent, for example, is shown as 116.5. This change can also be expressed in dollars as follows: the price of a base period "market basket" of goods and services in the CPI has risen from \$10 in 1982-84 to \$11.65. For further details see the CPI home page on the Internet at www.bls.gov/cpi and the BLS Handbook of Methods, Chapter 17, The Consumer Price Index, available on the Internet at www.bls.gov/opub/hom/pdf/homch17.pdf.

In calculating the index, price changes for the various items in each location are averaged together with weights that represent their importance in the spending of the appropriate population group. Local data are then combined to obtain a U.S. city average. Because the sample size of a local area is smaller, the local area index is subject to substantially more sampling and other measurement error than the national index. In addition, local indexes are not adjusted for seasonal influences. As a result, local area indexes show greater volatility than the national index, although their long-term trends are quite similar. **NOTE: Area indexes do not measure differences in the level of prices between cities; they only measure the average change in prices for each area since the base period.**

The **Chicago-Naperville-Elgin, Ill.-Ind.-Wis., Core Based Statistical Area** covered in this release is comprised of Cook, DeKalb, DuPage, Grundy, Kane, Kendall, Lake, McHenry, and Will Counties in Illinois; Jasper, Lake, Newton and Porter Counties in Indiana; and Kenosha County in Wisconsin.

Information in this release will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: (202) 691-5200; Federal Relay Service: (800) 877-8339.

Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods Chicago-Naperville-Elgin, IL-IN-WI (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	Dec. 2017	Jan. 2018	Feb. 2018	Feb. 2017	Dec. 2017	Jan. 2018
Expenditure category						
All items	234.293	236.267	236.306	1.6	0.9	0.0
All items (1967=100)	699.970	705.868	705.984	-	-	-
Food and beverages	245.145	246.208	247.910	2.3	1.1	0.7
Food	244.423	245.191	246.868	2.0	1.0	0.7
Food at home	234.408	233.514	236.032	1.5	0.7	1.1
Cereals and bakery products	254.147	256.960	257.868	-	1.5	0.4
Meats, poultry, fish and eggs	253.346	252.166	253.327	-	0.0	0.5
Dairy and related products	208.139	208.450	205.609	-	-1.2	-1.4
Fruits and vegetables	319.568	312.910	319.698	-	0.0	2.2
Nonalcoholic beverages and beverage materials(1)	181.387	184.276	190.684	-	5.1	3.5
Other food at home	188.711	187.592	189.527	-	0.4	1.0
Food away from home	253.904	256.782	257.364	2.6	1.4	0.2
Alcoholic beverages	254.065	259.796	261.889	7.7	3.1	0.8
Housing	242.827	244.800	245.310	2.1	1.0	0.2
Shelter	305.197	308.309	309.433	2.8	1.4	0.4
Rent of primary residence(2)	327.048	327.885	328.097	3.2	0.3	0.1
Owners' equiv. rent of residences(2)(3)	311.093	312.532	313.735	2.9	0.8	0.4
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence(2)(3)	311.093	312.532	313.735	2.9	0.8	0.4
Fuels and utilities	206.655	204.366	203.600	0.1	-1.5	-0.4
Household energy	162.701	161.912	161.383	0.0	-0.8	-0.3
Energy services(2)	165.965	165.112	164.559	0.0	-0.8	-0.3
Electricity(2)	159.839	164.452	163.838	6.4	2.5	-0.4
Utility (piped) gas service(2)	161.410	152.756	152.336	-8.9	-5.6	-0.3
Household furnishings and operations	89.689	90.704	90.256	-2.1	0.6	-0.5
Apparel	84.958	88.596	86.682	-0.3	2.0	-2.2
Transportation	182.472	185.014	184.120	1.8	0.9	-0.5
Private transportation	180.493	182.091	180.416	1.8	0.0	-0.9
New and used motor vehicles(4)	96.477	95.848	95.531	-	-1.0	-0.3
New vehicles(1)	175.299	174.238	172.673	-	-1.5	-0.9
Used cars and trucks(1)	261.367	262.637	265.439	-	1.6	1.1
Motor fuel	234.333	243.513	236.677	12.0	1.0	-2.8
Gasoline (all types)	231.900	240.999	234.174	11.9	1.0	-2.8
Gasoline, unleaded regular(5)	222.442	231.408	224.821	12.2	1.1	-2.8
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade(5)(6)	259.656	269.275	261.545	10.8	0.7	-2.9
Gasoline, unleaded premium(5)	259.310	267.589	260.475	10.2	0.4	-2.7
Motor vehicle insurance(1)	533.572	536.418	536.170	-	0.5	0.0
Medical care	499.057	497.882	497.396	1.0	-0.3	-0.1
Recreation(4)	111.776	114.335	114.290	2.6	2.2	0.0
Education and communication(4)	143.855	143.121	143.224	-1.6	-0.4	0.1
Tuition, other school fees, and childcare(1) ..	1,182.947	1,183.808	1,183.808	-	0.1	0.0
Other goods and services	391.364	392.788	390.499	1.6	-0.2	-0.6
Commodity and service group						
All items	234.293	236.267	236.306	1.6	0.9	0.0
Commodities	166.150	167.420	166.612	1.1	0.3	-0.5
Commodities less food and beverages	126.300	127.538	125.952	0.3	-0.3	-1.2
Nondurables less food and beverages	169.401	172.703	169.940	2.7	0.3	-1.6
Durables	86.648	86.368	85.717	-2.9	-1.1	-0.8
Services	299.007	301.654	302.528	1.9	1.2	0.3

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods Chicago-Naperville-Elgin, IL-IN-WI (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted) - Continued

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	Dec. 2017	Jan. 2018	Feb. 2018	Feb. 2017	Dec. 2017	Jan. 2018
Special aggregate indexes						
All items less medical care	222.927	225.042	225.104	1.7	1.0	0.0
All items less shelter.....	210.373	211.957	211.617	1.1	0.6	-0.2
Commodities less food	130.808	132.155	130.617	0.6	-0.1	-1.2
Nondurables	207.807	210.182	209.363	2.4	0.7	-0.4
Nondurables less food.....	174.966	178.411	175.837	3.0	0.5	-1.4
Services less rent of shelter(3).....	307.953	310.209	310.848	1.1	0.9	0.2
Services less medical care services.....	284.338	286.993	287.988	2.2	1.3	0.3
Energy	190.155	193.657	190.434	5.5	0.1	-1.7
All items less energy	240.408	242.254	242.603	1.4	0.9	0.1
All items less food and energy	240.527	242.553	242.688	1.3	0.9	0.1

Footnotes

(1) Index on a December 1977=100 base.

(2) This index series was calculated using a Laspeyres estimator. All other item stratum index series were calculated using a geometric means estimator.

(3) Index on a December 1982=100 base.

(4) Indexes on a December 1997=100 base.

(5) Special index based on a substantially smaller sample.

(6) Index on a December 1993=100 base.

- Data not available.

Note: Index applies to a month as a whole, not to any specific date. Data not seasonally adjusted.